

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 /100 W
-----078973 120831Z /16

R 120724Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1584
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY DACCA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 10444

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, XC, XE, UR, PROP
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ATTACKS U.S., CHINESE POLICIES
TOWARD ASEAN

REF: (A) MOSCOW 6385 (NOTAL), (B) MOSCOW 1642 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: IZVESTIYA ARTICLE ATTACKS CHINESE AND U.S.-
JAPANESE POLICIES IN ASEAN AREA, AND ACCUSES U.S. BOTH
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OF GULLIBILITY AND LIMITED COMPLICITY IN CHINESE AIMS.
END SUMMARY.

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ON MAY 4 IZVESTIYA CARRIED
LENGTHY ARTICLE BY V. SKOSYREV TITLED "PRC-ASEAN: THE
DOUBLE GAME OF THE MAOISTS." ARTICLE BEGINS WITH USUAL
OBLIGATORY ATTACK ON U.S. AND JAPANESE POLICIES IN
REGION, THEN SHIFTS TO BLISTERING DIATRIBE AGAINST

PEKING. SALIENT POINTS OF ARGUMENT INCLUDE ASSERTIONS THAT:

- RULERS OF CHINA HAVE ALWAYS VIEWED ASEAN AREA AS SPHERE OF "SPECIAL INTEREST," AND ELEMENTS OF THESE TRADITIONAL CHINESE UNIFICATIONIST POLICIES HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY MAOISTS.
- DURING CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND ESPECIALLY WHEN MAO PASSED FROM THE SCENE CHINA WAS TOO BUSY WITH INTERNAL AFFAIRS TO WORK ACTIVELY ABROAD, BUT THIS IS NOW CHANGING.
- CHINA HAS INITIATED "DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE" ON ITS "SOUTHERN FLANK", WITH HIGH-LEVEL VISITORS GOING TO NEPAL, BURMA, PHILIPPINES, AND BANGLADESH, AND VISIT OF THAI PM TO PRC.
- CHINA VIEWS THAILAND AS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IN CONTEST TO DEVELOP CLOSE TIES WITH ASEAN AND CHANGE STRATEGIC BALANCE OF FORCES.
- PEKING TALKS ABOUT IMPORTANCE OF SOVEREIGNTY AND LAVISHES PRAISE ON ASEAN COUNTRIES, BUT ASEAN DOES NOT TAKE PEKING'S WORDS AT FACE VALUE.
- THIS CAUTION IS FULLY JUSTIFIED, BECAUSE PEKING STILL SUPPORTS UNDERGROUND MOVEMENTS IN A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES. CHINESE-SUPPORTED INSURGENTS IN BURMA MADE MASSIVE ATTACKS JUST AFTER TENG HSAIO-PING'S VISIT TO RANGOON, AND CHINA SUPPORTS THAI AND MALAYSIAN "LIBERATION RADIO STATIONS" WHICH ARE BASED IN SOUTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHINA. PRC IS ALSO WILLING TO USE CHINESE LIVING OVERSEAS AS "FIFTH COLUMN" TO FURTHER THE GREAT POWER AMBITIONS.

- IT IS DEBATABLE, HOWEVER, HOW SOLIDLY PEKING IS BEHIND LIBERATION MOVEMENTS SINCE CHINESE LEADERS HAVE STATED IN UNAMBIGUOUS TERMS THAT THEY OPPOSE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES FROM ASIA, SINCE THESE FORCES ACT AS "COUNTERWEIGHT TO SOVIET INFLUENCE."

- "CERTAIN CIRCLES IN THE USA AND JAPAN ARE NOT AVERSE TO WARMING THEIR HANDS ON THE ANTI-SOVIETISM OF PEKING. THERE, JUDGING BY THE COMMENTARY OF THE WESTERN PRESS, THEY GAZE QUITE TOLERANTLY ON THE INTRIGUES OF CHINA IN THE YOUNG STATES ON ITS BOUNDARY. HOWEVER, IT IS WELL NOT TO FORGET THAT THE PRESENT HEIRS OF MAO HAVE BY NO MEANS GIVEN UP HOPE OF REALIZING THE GREAT POWER AMBITIONS OF 'THE GREAT HELMSMAN.'"

- "THE THREADS WHICH ARE WOVEN AROUND ASEAN BY THE IMPERIALISTS AND MAOIST LEADERSHIP OF CHINA FORM A COMPLEX KNOT OF AT TIMES CONCURRENT BUT BASICALLY CONTRADICTORY INTERESTS. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE

GREAT POWER EFFORTS OF PEKING AND THE NEO-COLONIALIST
STRATEGY OF THE U.S. AND ITS ALLIES POISONS THE
POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN S.E. ASIA AND HINDERS
INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENTS FROM RESOLVING THE COMPLEX
PROBLEMS OF SOCIAL-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT."

ARTICLE CLOSES WITH THE TRADITIONAL PAEAN TO SOVIET
POLICIES IN THE REGION, WHICH ARE "ACQUIRING EVER
GREATER AUTHORITY" BECAUSE THEY TREAD TRUE ROAD OF
"COOPERATION ON EQUAL TERMS." END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: IN OUR VIEW,
COMMENTARY IS NOTEWORTHY AS:

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-- A MOST DIRECT AND COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC INDICTMENT
OF THE UPSURGE IN PRC DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY IN SEA;

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-10 NEA-11 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
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ICA-11 IO-13 /100 W

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R 120724Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1585
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
DIA WASHDC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

-- A REFLECTION OF SOVIET SENSITIVITY TOWARD PRC'S
FAVORABLE POSTURE TOWARD ASEAN (AS OPPOSED TO THE
SOVIET UNION'S SRV-INFLUENCED OPPOSITION TO ASEAN);
-- AN EXPRESSION OF SOVIET CONCERN AT POSSIBLE MERGING
OF PRC AND U.S. INTERESTS AND EFFORTS IN SEA. TOON

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Message Attributes

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